CANADIAN Film and TV Weekly
VOICE OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
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Famous Players Aquire Taylor Theatre Interests

- **Operation remains with Twinex under long-term management contract**

After several weeks' speculation, rumors that N. A. Taylor and Associates of Toronto were selling their share interests in more than 30 hardtop theatres were confirmed this week. But instead of National General Corporation, as originally rumored, the purchaser was Famous Players Canadian Corporation. The amount involved was not disclosed.

The deal involved only the shares in theatre companies owned and operated by a group consisting of N. A. Taylor, H. S. Mandell, Myer Axler and David Griesdorf. Drive-in theatres were not included nor were other assets of the principals, notably International Film Distributors.

The trade name, 20th Century Theatres Limited, would be retained and operation of the circuit would be in the same hands, President Taylor confirmed. Furthermore, it was expected an expansion move would get underway immediately, involving the booking for and operation of several new Famous Players theatres.

All of the fundamental details were spelled out for Twinex managers at a luncheon following consummation of the deal. Staffers were assured by management that present company policies would be maintained. "I can assure you," Taylor told them, "that your situation will be no worse and, in fact, may be a whole lot better."

As for Famous, the acquisition enhanced its position as the country's largest circuit with an estimated 365 theatres owned outright or in partnerships.

NFB Shows New Film At Man And His World

A new and spectacular production of the National Film Board of Canada will be shown to audiences at Man and His World this summer, is Multiple Man, a color film in 70mm which combines several scenes on the one screen. This is the multi-image technique employer previously in other famous films introduced at Man and His World, but this time carried to even more telling effect by doubling the size of the image and providing stereophonic sound.

The theme is man himself, global man in all his manifold forms and interests as he was seen at the universal rallying place of Expo 67. By combining varied views of mankind on screen at one time, the film brings the audience into closer

(Continued on Page 4)

Bob Crone Is Elected As AMPPLC President

Robert Crone of Film House has been elected president of the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada, with Al Dancy of TDF Film Productions as vice-president.

Directors named were Murray Briskin, Associated Screen Industries; Tom F. Glynn, Crawley Films Ltd.; Gunter Henning, Western Films Ltd.; Henry Michaud, Stellart Drege Audio Ltd.; Lew Parry, Lew Parry Film Productions; Don Wilder, Don Wilder Ltd.; and Ed Zemla, Rose-Magwood Productions.

Warren Davis On MGM Junket

Warren Davis, host personality on CBC-TV public affairs shows out of Toronto, is part of the communications media group visiting European locations of MGM features currently in production, notably The Warriors, shooting in Yugoslavia. While in London the touring group attended the world premiere of Alfred the Great.

Harvy Hart Will Direct Feature At Studio City

Former CBC-TV director Harvey Hart, prominent in recent years as a feature and TV director in Hollywood, returns to Toronto next month to direct a feature called Letting Go a co-production between his own company, American International Pictures and the Canadian Film Development Corporation. Studio City at Kleinburg near Toronto will be his production headquarters.

Letting Go is a Philip Roth story described as a love story "like Goodbye, Columbus ten years later." Script is by actor Mark Richmond who also will play a lead role in the film. Julian Roffman is executive producer.

Variety Carnival Set For Thursday, Aug. 7

It will be Variety Carnival Night on Thursday, Aug. 7, a benefit affair organized by the Variety Club of Ontario (Tent 28) and the Tri-Bell Club of Toronto, a philanthropic organization whose headquarters at 1575 Steeles Ave. W., will be the site for all the action starting at 7.30 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be applied to the building fund for Tent 28's projected centre for the manufacture of electronic limbs for handicapped children, an outgrowth of research and development carried on by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children.

The centre, which will form an addition to the existing Variety Village, a vocational school for handicapped boys, will be staffed and administered by the OSCC.

Plans for the $300,000 undertaking are nearing completion and Chief Barker Frank Strean hopes to be in a position soon to make a detailed presentation to his membership and the general public. He's hopeful of turning the first sod this fall.

As for the fund-raising Carnival, tickets are available at $5.00 each, preferably in advance from Tent 28 Barkers or Tri-Bell

(Continued on Page 4)

Bassett Interests Enter Feature Film Production

Eminently successful as newspaper publishers (The Toronto Telegram) and television broadcasters (CFTO), the John Bassett family has now moved into feature film production, forming a company called Agincourt Productions at 69 Pleasant Boulevard in Toronto.

A pairing of CFTO's production house, Glen Warren, with Limelight Productions owned by the public relations-theatrical producing team of Gil Taylor and Bill Marshall, Agincourt's first production will be a sci-fi thriller tentatively called Flick which will start shooting Aug. 5 in and around the University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum.

Taylor will direct and Marshall will produce, working to a 40-day schedule and processing color footage as they go at Film House in downtown Toronto. They hope to have the film completed for release next spring. Astral will handle it in Canada but as yet no firm deal has been made for U.S. distribution.

John F. Bassett, president of Agincourt (his father, John W. H. Bassett is chairman), told a recent press conference that Flick would be an all-Canadian effort,

(Continued on Page 4)

Max Davey Is Handling Pioneer Starting Times

Tee-off times for the Canadian Picture Pioneers' 18th annual golf tournament and dinner at Cedarbrae Golf and Country Club Thursday, Aug. 28, are being assigned from 7 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and the man to call is Max Davey at 366-8897. Guest registration will open at 10 a.m.

For dinner tickets—at $6.50—contact Zeke Sheine, Ferg Martin, Morris Appleby, Vi Chinn or Harold Bell. Green fee tickets will be sold at the Cedarbrae pro shop.

This year, proceeds from the event will assist the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital at Saranac, N.Y., in addition to the Pioneers' Benevolent Fund.

Warner Bros.-7 Arts Now Kinney Subsid'

A formal closing meeting held recently in Edmonton confirmed acquisition of Warner Bros.-Seven Arts by Kinney National Service, Inc., a takeover that had been sanctioned by shareholders of both companies on June 10. Among expected changes at WB-7A (the name remains) is the appointment of John Calley to succeed Ken Hyman as west coast production chief. It's also expected Ted Ashley and W. Spencer Harrison of the Kinney group will play an important part.

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BASSETT INTERESTS

(Continued from Page 1)

half of the budget being put up by his company with the other $150,000 coming from the Canadian Film Development Corporation.

"It will be a small film," he said, "mostly to get ourselves established and to show that we have the ability to make commercially-successful films. Our next two projects will be more ambitious. One is the Canadian story, The Donnellys Must Die, by Orlo Miller, which will start shooting in February. The other is Warriors for the Working Day, a war story by Peter Elstob which Gil Taylor and Bill Marshall found in Europe."

The script for Flick, a collaboration between Taylor and Toronto magazine writer David Cobb, calls for six leads but only one, Robin Ward, had been signed at this writing. Ward toured with this year's edition of Spring Thaw and before that appeared in a Canadian-made (Meridian Productions) film, Explosion! (formerly called The Blast), which Julian Roffman produced and Jules Bricken directed in and around Vancouver for release by American International.

Agincourt's all-Canadian technical crew includes Chris Slagter as director of photography with Jackson Samuels as his camera operator. Eric Wrate will edit and Paul Kimberley and Adrian Console will be assistant directors. Sets are being designed by Robert Burns and Bert Bell, while Paul Hoffert and Skip Prokop are composing the score to be played by a Toronto group called The Lighthouse.

Only the soundman remained to be signed and Taylor admitted having trouble finding somebody who could satisfactorily handle the predominantly outdoor recording which would be required.

Crawley Staffers Given 11.6% Salary Increase

Crawley Films of Ottawa has renewed its contract with NABET for two years, providing 55 employees with a 7.6 per cent pay raise retroactive to March 1 and another four per cent hike starting Mar. 1, 1970, in addition to normal annual raises.

According to NABET, the Crawley contract represents the highest rates paid by any film lab or production company in Canada. In some cases, the rates were increased by as much as $15-$20 a week. Top weekly wage scale is now $208.

In addition to the wage increases, other benefits include a daily meal allowance of $10.50 and an increase in sick leave from 45 to 90 days.

Panorama

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ by Stan Helleur

IN THE FEW YEARS we covered the entertainment scene for **The Telegram** and **Globe and Mail** in Toronto, we made a point of being categorized as a reviewer rather than a critic, perhaps influenced by a substantial news agency background which ingrains objectivity and inhibits personal expression. Whatever the positive chemistry, we

felt that in evaluating films or anything else we felt our basic commitment was to inform the reader as to content and honestly balance personal opinion against audience reaction and certain ingredients which might appeal to certain tastes, meanwhile trying to be as entertaining as possible. We'd observe the same credo today. We still believe that in addressing a mass circulation, with cross-sectional backgrounds and interests, a newspaper is guilty of disservice when it employs critics instead of reviewers, specialists who evaluate intellectually for the minority group among readers, writing with a critical appreciation which properly belongs in sophisticated journals of opinion ☆ ☆ ☆ The question of reviewer vs. critic is discussed succinctly and entertainingly in the July issue of **Esquire** by **Dwight Macdonald,** former film critic for the magazine who reflects back on 40 years of assessing films professionally. At one point, he puts down **Bosley Crowther,** formerly of the **New York Times,** and comments: "Actually, Mr. C. was a reviewer, not a critic. The latter is interested in what he thinks of a work, the former in what his readers will think of it. A reviewer performs a humble but useful service, like a racetrack tout or a market analyst. And like them, he has a short memory as against the critics, or the economist's, which extends over decades, periods, even centuries. The horses or plays or books or movies or stocks of the moment are his standard of com-

(Continued on Page 5)

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VARIETY CARNIVAL

(Continued from Page 1)

members, but also at the door. Three grand prizes will be available—an all-expenses trip for two to anywhere Air Canada flies (organized by the Harold Meyers Travel Agency), a brand new Ford Maverick (courtesy Montreal's CFCF-TV and CFTM-TV) and an Admiral color television set (courtesy Leder Electric, Toronto).

In addition there's be a host of supplementary lucky draw and door prizes awarded throughout the evening. An outstanding entertainment program has been organized along Monte Carlo lines, with dancing to a top band and plenty to eat and drink.

The Tri-Bell Club is west of Bathurst on Steeles and offers plenty of free parking space.

NFB FILM

(Continued from Page 1)

understanding of man's cultural variety, his accomplishments and his similarities.

Multiple Man was produced originally by a French-language film crew, the first time NFB French production has made a multi-image film in 35 and 70mm with stereophonic sound.

The principle creators were Georges Dufaux and Claude Godbout. The film titles are in seven languages so that in effect the film is universally intelligible and understood. This is the real objective of the film since it is about the common humanity of all people.

After the world premiere of the film at Man and His World, July 17, the Multiple Man was to be released for cinema showings.

Bob Vollum Forms Own Company

Bob Vollum, one of Toronto's best-known sound engineers, has formed his own company specializing not only in sound mixing but the p.r. field as applied particularly to the film industry. Vollum formerly was with Film House.

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Name International Jury For Canadian Film Awards

King Vidor, Peter Watkins and Elmer Bernstein have agreed to form the international jury for this year's Canadian Film Awards, it was announced by chairman Gerald Pratley.

The jury will convene in Montreal to adjudicate entries a week before the awards presentation itself Oct. 4 in the Canadian Room of Toronto's Royal York Hotel, Pratley said.

Entries for the '69 competition are reported to be coming in at a record-breaking pace.

Pigskin's View of Game In Fox Football Scenes

A pigskin's view of a football game will be seen for the first time in 20th Century-Fox's M*S*S*H, comedy-drama of the Korean War now filming. Technicians at the 20th-Fox grip department perfected a camera base inside a steel-framed ball which will provide this unique viewpoint of a football sequence.

Director Robert Altman conceived the idea for the special camera mount, which rolls erratically like a football, and can be kicked and moved mid-scene by the players, therein giving the sequence a documentary effect. He took his concept to E. T. Grant, head of 20th's grip department, who with his staff came up with the steel-framed ball, covered with padded vinyl, 30 inches in diameter and housing plates to which camera, magazine and battery may be bolted and strapped in place. Complete with contents, the affair weighs approximately 85 pounds.

Pull Of Radio Over Print?

When a Montreal newspaper columnist suggested that Montrealers weren't interested in the 1969 edition of Man and His World, even if tickets were free, French language CKVL-radio's morning man, Yvon Dupuis, invited listeners to write the station for free ducats to the fair's first two days. "We expected about 1,000 requests," said sales manager Judah Tieotelman, "but got 15,000 in two days, plus 60 to 70 long-distance calls per day. We actually wound up with more than 20,000 letters."

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PANORAMA

(Continued from Page 4)

parison. When a reviewer says, to cite some recent ads in the Times, that a movie is 'great' (**Liz Smith, Cosmopolitan**) or 'an absolute must-see' (**Newsday**) or 'Stunning!' (**Glamour**) or 'like a dipperful of fresh spring water' (**Howard Thompson, N.Y. Times**) or 'a yummy movie-movie (**Judith Crist, New York Magazine**), he, she it means no more than that it is great or yummy or dipper-fresh compared to the current crop; which may be correct. Critic-critics like me or **John Simon** are accused of 'not liking movies,' which is also correct, seasonally speaking. I disliked most of the new releases I saw while I was reviewing for Esquire from 1960-66. But this was because I have for so long had such a passion for movies—'like' is too mild—that I ask a lot from the experience. My comparisons are not with the relative junkiness of one as against another item in the mayflower swarm of junk that flourishes yummily this year and is forgotten next. My idea of cinema is more extensive, going back to the sound renascence that began fifteen years ago and, in extreme cases like comedy, to the **Keaton-Chaplin-Sennett** period. Like its older sisters, cinema has in its history a few great innovators, a larger number of talented followers ('school of' or 'minor' but they are essential to the life of the medium, ecologically—also enjoyable in their own special way) and an enormously greater quantity of energetic, untalented hacks who produce the bulk of any period's works, as one may see by walking through the remoter galleries of any large art museum. The critic's job is to discriminate between these three categories; with reasons" ☆ ☆ ☆ All of which may be valid within the slick, sophisticated context of publications like Esquire. But it's interesting to note that not anywhere in Macdonald's proposition does the word 'entertainment' figure. As a critic he's interested only in the deeper, aesthetic values of what he sees. It seems to us that when a reader is contemplating any expenditure on a movie he'd want to know about that surface entertainment factor in the broadest sense. That's where the reviewer as opposed to the critic becomes essential. Newspaper editors might want to mull that one over.

☆ ☆ ☆

RANDOM JOTTINGS: **Mickey Stevenson, Paramount's** new vice-president for domestic distribution has been commuting week-ends between New York and his home in **Cooksville, Ont.** but all that will end at the end of the mounth when he moves wife **Anne** and the three boys into their new home in **Darien, Conn.** Stevenson and his ex-Toronto counterpart at **20th-Fox, Peter Myers,** were to have their first New York get-together over lunch, July 14 ☆ ☆ ☆ **ASI** president **Harold Greenberg** reports that **Murray Briskin** is making good progress following major surgery at **Doctors' Hospital** in New York. Greenberg also advised that **Arthur Nalven,** Briskin's assistant general manager, had returned to **Du-Art** in New York ☆ ☆ ☆ **Andre Link,** obviously astute co-producer of **Cine-Pix'** boxoffice winner, **Valerie,** said he prefers to mix sound for his pictures in France "not because of the French thing but simply because of the combination of economy and quality" ☆ ☆ ☆ The recent Toronto press conference for Valerie and its star, **Danielle Ouimet,** was well staged and handled by **Harry Pollock** in a **Yorkville** discotheque. Projection of silent footage from the frankly erotic film provided an excellent opportunity to grade the girl-watchers, from the unabashedly salivating to sneaky furtive. Go ahead. Put us somewhere in the middle.

Bob Brooks Forms Company

Robert (Bob) Brooks, director of photography for Chetwynd Films, Toronto, for the past 13 years, has left the company to freelance under his own company name, Robert Brooks Associates, at 10 Banigan Drive, Toronto 354, Ont.

Fox Nets $2,464,000 1st Qtr.

Darryl F. Zanuck, president of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation has reported net earnings after taxes for the first three months of 1969 were $2,464,000 as compared to adjusted net earnings of $3,636,000 in 1968. Net earnings for the first three months of 1969 amounted to $.31 per share based on 8,006,108 shares, the average number of shares outstanding during the period. This compares with net earnings in the first three months of 1968 of $.52 per share based on 7,035,285 shares outstanding during that period.

Sunday Movies In B.C.

Sunday movies in British Columbia have become a local option in each municipality, based on plebiscites, following passage of an appropriate bill in the provincial house. Unorganized areas must obtain an Order in Council before proceeding.

Lou Jacobi Signed By UA

Native Torontonian Lou Jacobi, one of Broadway's best-known character comedy actors, has been signed for a starring role in Cotton Comes to Harlem, being directed by Ossie Davis for United Artists release.

Denis Whitaker Is Named Station Rep's President

W. Denis Whitaker, D.S.O., E.D., president of Major Market Broadcasters Limited, Toronto, has been named president of the Station Representatives Association of Canada to fill out the term of Bob Quinn who has resigned from Radio-Television Representatives Ltd., after 14 years.

Other officers include Al Slaight of Stephens & Towndrow Ltd.; Andy McDermott of Radio & Television Sales Inc., and Ross McCreath of All Canada Radio & Television Limited.

Talent Photo Catalogue Is Launched by ACTRA

ACTRA (Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists) has launched a talent catalogue called "Face to Face with Talent" in which photographs of members will appear along with pertinent background facts.

Early reaction to the idea has been favorable.

"This kind of photographic index will encourage producers to consider performers for various kinds of roles, not just those in the range of type-casting," says panel moderator and announcer Fred Davis.

From TV hostess Lorraine Thomson: "If you are listed as a dancer but your face is the type they are looking for in a commercial—you could be called—something that wouldn't happen without a list of the type that 'Face to Face with Talent' will provide."

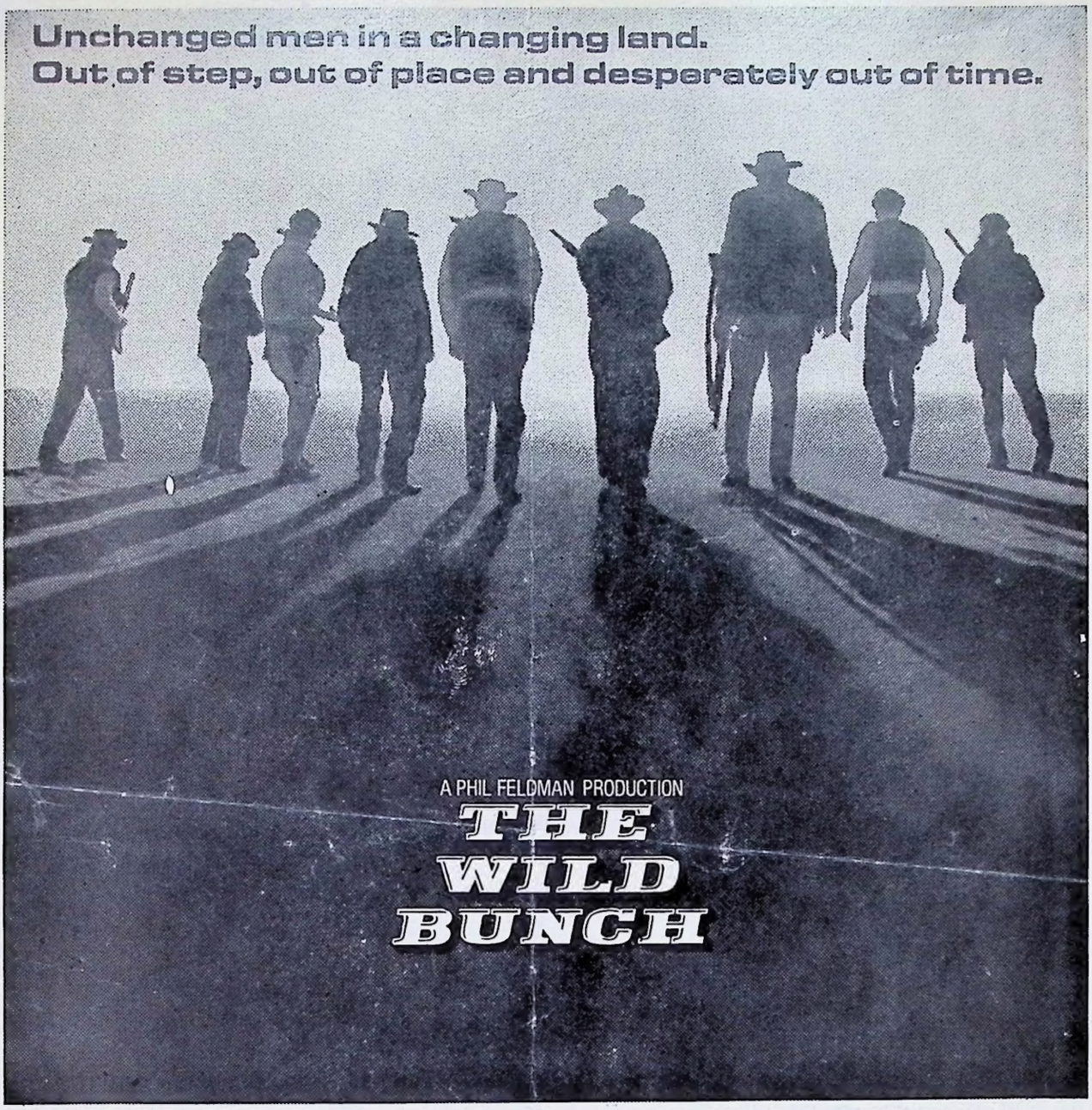
Leslie Yeo and Hilary Vernon, actors: "The impact of an actor's most memorable performance can be lost before the next casting session comes around. Now it can be recorded in print and serve as a permanent reminder to those who may think that all the best talent has migrated south."

Lewis To Direct, Won't Star

Jerry Lewis has been signed by producer Milton Ebbins to direct Salt and Pepper II, co-starring Sammy Davis and Peter Lawford in a sequel to last year's mystery comedy hit distributed by United Artists. It will mark the first feature directed by Lewis in which he has not also starred.

Al Waxman's Second Film

Al Waxman, Toronto writer-director-actor whose first film, a 20-minute short called Tviggy was a successful theatrical release by Columbia Pictures, is making his second film in collaboration with Crawley Films of Ottawa. It's called Tomorrow Through My Window.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